

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

January 19, 2010

Mayor Daniel C. Snarr

City Council Members, Murray City residents and staff, thank you for the opportunity to present a State of the City Address tonight. It is an honor to represent, live and work in such a wonderful City. I would like to begin my remarks tonight by highlighting a few 'Murray Milestones' of the past decade.

2000 - We all survived Y2K! Three gas turbine generators were beginning to come on line to provide another power resource for our City.

2001 - State Street and 5300 South received a major makeover with the Pointe @ 53rd and COSTCO opening. The Park Center and Willow Pond Park were both built for increased recreational and open space opportunities.

2002 - We participated in welcoming the world as part of the Winter Olympics. Murray City grew from 34,000 to 44,500 as unincorporated residents joined us.

2003 - We spent the year celebrating the Centennial of our City in grand style. Curbside recycling finally became a reality.

2004 - Planning began for future City Hall and public safety improvements or rebuilding.

2005 - A big, new yellow pumper truck arrived at Station 82 to respond to emergencies. The Rose Garden in Murray Park was redesigned with a unique pergola.

2006 - The Intermountain Medical Center opened all of their hospitals. Murray Fire Department turned 100 years old and we began a major upgrade of our Power transmission system. The Cottonwood Street Overpass was completed, giving us another north/south access road in the City.

2007 - Fashion Place Mall began a major remodeling project and brought the Cheesecake Factory to Utah for the first time.

2008 - The national spotlight shone on Murray as we hosted a hometown gala for David Archuleta, finalist for American Idol. Station 82 was built to serve the area east of 900 East.

The milestones of 2009 are the center of this address. As I contemplated the amazing accomplishments in the past decade, the events of 2009 are a great capstone to them. Each of the departments of our City make contributions and deserve recognition for the projects they have completed this year. Efforts of the City Council to work cooperatively with us and fund these projects have been essential to our success. Because of the joint work and focus, we have been able to add these milestones to the Murray City history books.

Our Attorney's Office continues to provide excellent legal work, for example, here is a chart of the cases handled in 2009 by the Criminal Prosecution Division. They have also been instrumental in helping us begin purchasing property for the Downtown vision and stuck with challenges from the past decade by settling with ASARCO for over \$210,000.

Murray City Municipal Court continues to handle over 16,000 cases annually. A Interactive Voice Recognition system has made it easier for people to get answers to their questions and pay fines over the phone. New Court Security Officers have increased safety and security in the court.

There were many milestones in the Community and Economic Development Department in 2009. They received a grant from the Economic Development Corporation of Utah to host a symposium highlighting development updates. Much work has been done on the Downtown Master Plan, which I will address further. I am proud of the new down-payment program that has been put in place to help lower-income residents purchase housing in our City.

With the challenges the economic times have produced, our Finance Department has been key in helping us monitor budgets. City investments have been constantly reviewed and placed in the best possible interest accounts. Financial accounting for the new ambulance service has been a new effort for 2009.

Several milestones were reached in the Fire Department this year. We completed another new station with the rebuild of Station 83, completing our fire station realignment project. It includes an Emergency Operations Center which has already been the site of much training and preparation for emergencies. One of my initiatives last year was to improve our City preparedness. The Fire Department has helped train 1/3 of our employees through the Community Emergency Response Training program and they continue this effort. This has been the first year of ambulance service provided by this department and it has been very successful. A new 95 foot mid-mount aerial platform was also delivered this year.

Under the direction of the Human Resource Department, the City received the Workplace Health Promotions Silver Award and the Wellness Council has sponsored many events to help employees stay healthy.

Murray Library is looking for more milestones to achieve as they completed a 3 year strategic plan this year. Library circulation increased 12.8%, which is a good motivation for many ideas they want to carry into the future.

More and more city services are available on line, thanks to the milestones created by the Management Information Systems Department. They have made it possible to receive utility bills, pay court fines and renew business licenses from the convenience of your laptop. The Geographic Information System creates valuable maps, adding available resources for our residents.

The Police Department has reorganized some divisions and is utilizing the former Station 83 to house a Special Operations Unit. The Narcotics Officers are housed in this facility and were successful in making 114 drug arrests, as a milestone for them. An internet café was busted for illegal gambling and money laundering in our City. The efforts of our Police force have been an example for other agencies in the valley in eliminating this type of activity.

Murray City Power continues to create milestones with the work they accomplish. A second landfill gas plant at TransJordan was finished in the spring. An American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant for \$209,000 helped cover part of the costs of this facility. Crews are working to improve the infrastructure in backyards by replacing old poles, transformers and lines, as the funds are available. Reliability is a constant measuring stick. The current 99.9% rate is exceptional.

Our Public Services Departments were very active this year. With three light rail stations and our central location in the valley, we are an ongoing hub of transit activities. We have worked with UTA on:

- beginning the track for Frontrunner; which will have a platform to platform stop in Murray,
- the Cottonwood Street realignment at Winchester Street to accommodate the Mid-Jordan line,
- completion of a bus-rapid transit study for east and west travel,
- and getting 'Quiet Zones' in place for our residents who live near the railroad tracks.

Completing road projects are big milestones each year. Some of the projects included:

- the Fashion Boulevard and Winchester intersection,
- rebuilds on Rodeo, 5290 South, Allendale, Kingston, 1430 East, Creekview Circle and Silver Shadow.

5900 South, which is in need of a rebuild west of State Street, was placed on the State Transportation Improvement Program for funding in 2014. We have also applied for a federal TIGER grant for Cottonwood Street improvements.

Several storm water lines were replaced in various locations. Both the Water and Waste Water divisions completed master plan updates. An effort is underway to change out old water meters with radio read models. This work should be completed during 2010.

Our Parks and Recreation division was in the national spotlight as we hosted the Babe Ruth World Series in August at Ken Price Ballpark. The games were so successful in our City, that we have been asked to hold them again in 2012.

The pool drains of our City pools were changed out to meet federal safety mandates.

Nordstrom was rebuilt at Fashion Place Mall and other businesses are planning to locate here soon. Sam's Club was remodeled and generously made donations to many local causes at their reopening. The building department issued about 1900 permits with a valuation of almost \$37 million dollars.

The Recorder's Office continued to move forward with their work on the Records Information Management program. They coordinated with the Parks department to improve the landscaping around the City Center for a minimal amount of \$3,000. Keeping all the agendas and minutes current on the State website continues to be taken care of by this office.

The City Utility Relief Program is handled by the Treasurer's Office, with support from Finance. It makes a big difference for our lowest income residents with a minimal dollar commitment.

Even in challenging economic times, we have been able to cooperatively accomplish these milestones and more. I appreciate how all the departments stepped up and made major cuts to the budget at the beginning of 2009. In my view, we have amazing employees who are constantly working to make our City better.

As we begin this New Year, there will be challenges. I am hopeful that we will see a rebound in our City revenues, but also realize it will be a slow and steady process. I hope our employees will patiently stick with us as we wait for economic growth to return.

We continue to participate to create a City-owned fiberoptic system and have begun making monthly payments to cover the infrastructure we have in place. I am confident that over time there will be enough system users to eliminate the need to do this. Having fiber in the ground provides countless opportunities now, plus more in the future.

I am excited about the work that is being done on a vision for Downtown Murray. The preliminary plans will be rolled out soon for comments by our residents. This initiative will involve much work and support of employees, elected officials and the citizens. Creating this big Murray milestone will take blending the vision for community buildings, arts, parks, historical elements, office, retail and housing. While building out the vision may take years, continuing to move it forward is a goal I will focus on during the next four years.

Through the years we have discussed the challenges with our City Center. The building is wearing out. The facade of the building is cracking, sewer lines are leaking and it is not seismically safe. Looking to the future means making plans for dealing with these concerns. Working with the Council, I believe we can find the right formula to have a building that meets the needs of our Public Safety and other departments.

As you are aware, the former National Guard Armory maintenance facility is now owned by the City. It is my intention to pursue the feasibility of uses for the building. There is a particular need for community meeting space and that is an area I would like to explore. I believe federal funding could be used in this process.

A beautiful City has many benefits. You all know my love for well landscaped areas. I would like us to participate in the "America in Bloom" program this year. It will give opportunities for many groups in the City to work together to create and improve our community. This initiative will increase community pride, decrease graffiti and vandalism, as well as encourage economic development.

In listing milestones of the past 10 years, I must admit to a personal one. Growing my handlebar moustache to 12" was a goal I had set for myself. My wife hit her own milestone when she was handed a sharp pair of scissors and ended my pursuit.

Thank you and good evening.